



## Visiting Cape Cod National Seashore with your pet

*Pets are great companions for enjoying the out-of-doors. At numerous locations in Cape Cod National Seashore, pets and their people can experience the remote beauty and tranquility of this fragile peninsula. While leashed pets may visit most of the Seashore, some important restrictions apply.*



### Opportunities and Limits

*Ask at seashore visitor centers or ranger stations to locate areas where pets are permitted.*

*Specific areas where pets are prohibited are posted.*

#### You may take a LEASHED pet to:

CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE BEACHES, BUT ONLY beyond posted seasonal bird- nesting and lifeguard-protected zones (walking through is permitted);

ANY SEASHORE FIRE ROADS (DEPICTED ON TOPOGRAPHIC maps available at park and local bookstores);

HEAD OF THE MEADOW BICYCLE TRAIL YEAR- ROUND; and Province Lands bicycle trail from November 1 to April 30;

SEASHORE FRESH WATER PONDS (BEACHES AND WATER) from October 16 through May 14;

WEST AND SUNSET HORSE TRAILS IN THE PROVINCE LANDS.

#### Locations where ALL pets are prohibited:

ALL DESIGNATED NATURE TRAILS;

ALL LIFEGUARD- PROTECTED BEACHES;

SHOREBIRD NESTING AREAS;

CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE BICYCLE TRAILS (EXCEPT Head of the Meadow, year- round; and Province Lands where pets are permitted from November 1 to April 30);

SEASHORE FRESH WATER PONDS (BEACHES AND WATER) from May 15 through October 15;

SALT POND AND PROVINCE LANDS VISITOR CENTER interiors.

### Important Considerations

*The natural areas of Cape Cod National Seashore need protection to maintain their integrity.*

Nature trails within the seashore offer people opportunities for close, first- hand observation of unique resources. These areas need protection to keep them from being damaged so all people can enjoy their beauty and character.

For example, the Beech Forest Trail is one such setting offering a rare concentration of once- numerous beech trees; shallow ponds hosting rare aquatic plants, including golden club; and large assemblages of migrating warblers in spring and fall.



Golden Club

Fresh water ponds are an especially fragile resource. Not removing a pet's fecal matter may allow phosphorous, nitrogenous compounds, bacteria, and possibly viral organisms to be added to the ponds, accelerating their deterioration.

In addition, the cumulative effect of accessing beaches over non- established trails and walking over dunes can cause erosion and irreparable damage.

## Reasonable Restrictions

It is necessary to restrict pets from designated nature trails year round because they diminish the quality and variety of natural wildlife. Many pets retain characteristics that make them extremely effective predators. The mere sight of a dog or cat can frighten away wildlife. A pet's urine and fecal deposits serve as strong territorial markings that are equally alarming to native species long after the pet has departed. In addition, vegetation may be destroyed.

It is also important to restrict pets from nesting shorebird areas. The piping plover, a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, may abandon nests when they perceive threats or are disturbed. Other nesting shorebirds also utilize the seashore and require a serene environment.



## Remember...

*Recognize this sign prohibiting pets as you travel through the seashore.*



PETS MUST BE KEPT ON A SIX- FOOT LEASH AT ALL TIMES. This reduces potential conflicts with other park users and reduces the likelihood of damage to vegetation and wildlife.

RESPECT OTHER'S SOLITUDE.

KEEP YOUR PET UNDER CONTROL TO PREVENT IT FROM frightening or disturbing others.

PICK UP PET FECAL MATTER. IT IS UNPLEASANT FOR OTHERS to encounter and pollutes the natural system.

KEEP PETS OFF DESIGNATED NATURE TRAILS AND bicycle trails as described elsewhere in this brochure, seasonally posted nesting shorebird areas and lifeguard- protected zones (though pets can pass through lifeguard zones).

**Park rangers enforce these rules for the benefit of park visitors and the seashore's unique environment.**

## For more information:

CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE  
99 Marconi Site Road  
Wellfleet, MA 02667  
508 349 - 3785

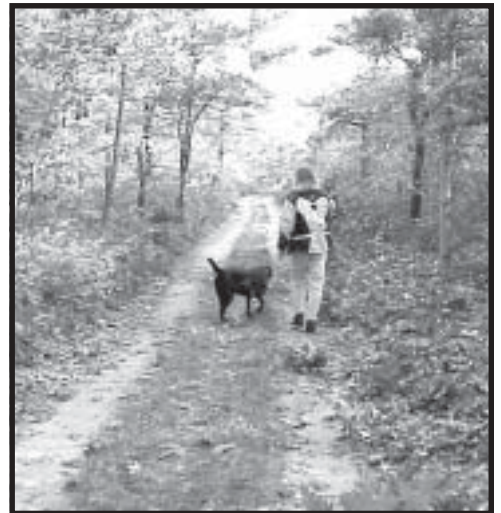
SALT POND VISITOR CENTER  
Off Route 6 on Nauset Road  
Eastham, MA  
508 255 - 3421  
(open year- round)

PROVINCE LANDS VISITOR CENTER  
Race Point Road  
Provincetown, MA  
508 487 - 1256  
(open mid- May to mid- October)

NAUSET RANGER STATION  
Nauset Road  
Eastham, MA  
508 255 - 2112

RACE POINT RANGER STATION  
Race Point Road  
Provincetown, MA  
508 487 - 2100

WEBSITE: [WWW.NPS.GOV/CACO](http://WWW.NPS.GOV/CACO)



This printed material is funded through Eastern National, providing quality educational products and services to America's national parks and public trusts.

